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SAUDI ARABIA, THE PLO AND TERRORISM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
P Schmelzer 7/2/85

-- Saudi Arabia, in common with all of the Arab states, recognizes the PLO as the "sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

-- Saudi Arabia has been a leading supporter of those elements within the PLO who support a political rather than a military solution to the Palestinian problem.

-- This political approach is consistent to the Saudi Government position that it would be contrary to Saudi policy to provide support for terrorism (see attached Saudi statement).

-- Saudi Arabia through the years has used its influence with the Palestinians to strengthen the hand of the moderates. The Saudis persistenly have argued that the Palestinians should reject the use of international terrorism as a policy instrument and should, instead, seek their objectives through political means, including negotiations.

-- The Saudis were the primary force behind the Inter-Arab Agreement that brought the civil conflict in Lebanon to an end in late 1976. The Saudi organized mini-summit resulted in the first ever Arab public condemnation of the Palestinians for challenging the legitimate Government of Lebanon.

-- In the past the Saudis have sought to persaude the PLO leadership to accept Security Council Resolution 242.